

Stacey Parker

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Subject: PRESS RELEASE 04/17/15 - Severe Weather Preparedness Saves Lives

PRESS RELEASE



City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

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Contact: David Grizzle, City Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, (405) 292-9780,
David.Grizzle@NormanOK.gov

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS SAVES LIVES

Recent weather conditions serve as a good reminder that it is once again time to prepare for severe weather season. Web sites, smart-phone weather apps, the use of portable National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios as well as monitoring local media outlets are all good ways to stay aware of weather conditions while indoors. Although it is a critical component of City emergency notifications, the City Outdoor Warning System (i.e. storm sirens) are intended for warning people that are outside during a weather event, and are not intended to wake citizens during the night or be heard indoors. Warning sirens are sounded based on weather conditions that pose an immediate threat of a possible tornado. When sounded, citizens should immediately seek shelter and seek additional weather information.

Also, the City of Norman Emergency Management Division supports the “Shelter in Place” concept. Sheltering in place involves individuals finding a windowless room on the lowest level of the structure they are in, and placing as many walls as possible between them and the outside during a severe weather event.

Creating a personal preparedness plan is a critical component of this concept for severe weather safety and preparedness.

Here are some tips to stay notified of weather events and prepare for a severe weather emergency:

- check NOAA weather radio batteries
- check smart phone apps to ensure they are up-to-date and settings are correct
- update emergency preparedness kits
- review family emergency plans

For more information on creating individual preparedness plans go to: <http://www.ready.gov/document/are-you-ready-depth-guide-citizen-preparedness>.

For additional information/questions, contact David Grizzle, City of Norman Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, (405) 292-9780 or David.Grizzle@NormanOK.gov.

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